

Message Text

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ACTION SR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-12 ADP-00 ORM-03 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-14

L-03 NSC-10 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 EUR-25

EB-11 RSR-01 /142 W

----- 064203

R 151300 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6247

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0561

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SU, EAID, UN

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN SUDAN- JUBA BRIDGE

REF: STATE 04613 6

1. SUMMARY. JAMIESON BELIEVES THERE IS STILL POSSIBILITY DUTCH WILL AGREE BUILD JUBA BRIDGE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN SEEING BRIDGE COMPLETED. PROBLEM REMAINS ONE OF EXISTENCE MANY MORE PRIORITY NEEDS THAN GOS HAS RESOURCES OR CAPABILITIES TO SATISFY. END SUMMARY.

2. REGARDING POINTS RAISED PARA 5 REFTTEL, JAMIESON IN CALL ON CHARGE MAR 13 EXPRESSED VIEW THAT DUTCH WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE THIS BE " DUTCH BRIDGE" AND THAT HE PLANNED ASK HIGH COMMISSIONER CONTACT PRINCE BERNHARDT ON " PRINCE TO PRINCE BASIS" IN HOPES GETTING POSITIVE RESPONSE. JAMIESON SECONDED VIEW OF DUTCH CHARGE THAT WITHIN GON IT WAS ONLY MINDEF THAT WAS RESISTING AND THAT WITH FURTHER EFFORTS THIS ROADBLOCK MIGHT BE OVERCOME.

3. AS FOR GOS POSITION, WE UNAWARE THAT IDEA OF SUDANESE ARMY PROVIDING MORE THAN COOLIE FORCE WAS EVER MORE THAN HOPE. CONFIDENTIAL

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I. E., THERE WAS ALWAYS GREAT DOUBT THAT GOS UNITS HAD ENGINEERING KNOW-HOW TO DO JOB. WITH THESE DOUBTS GENERALLY CONFIRMED EARLY ON, EFFORTS TURNED TO FINDING ALTERNATE BUILDERS, E. G., DUTCH MILITARY UNIT.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT GOS STILL VERY INTERESTED IN BRIDGE. PROBLEM IS ONE OF FINANCES AND PRIORITIES, WITH POLITICS MIXED IN. BRIDGE AT WAU, TO BE BUILT BY ITALIANS UNDER MEDIUM TERM CREDIT, IS GENERALLY AGREED TO BE OF LESS THAN TOP PRIORITY. BUT VARIOUS SUDANESE GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING NIMAIRI, HAVE BEEN PROMISING SUCH BRIDGE FOR YEARS. NOW ITALIANS HAVE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DO JOB AND NIMAIRI IS GOING AHEAD DESPITE QUESTIONABLE ECONOMICS OF SITUATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ONE HEARS NO PROTESTS ON THIS SCORE FROM SOUTHERN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. WE ASSUME OTHER BRIDGE MENTIONED REFTEL IS THAT PLANNED AT KOSTI. WHILE THIS BRIDGE WILL BE IN UPPER NILE IT IS REALLY PART OF EXTENSION OF NORTHERN ROAD NETWORK FROM WAD MEDANI DOWN TO KOSTI AREA WHERE MAJOR SUGAR PROJECT PLANNED. THIS PROJECT DOES APPEAR TO MEET REAL NEED. AGAIN ITALIANS ARE BUILDING BOTH ROAD TO KOSTI AND BRIDGE.

5. AS FOR POSSIBLE GOS CONCERNS RE IMPACT OF TRADE THROUGH UGANDA ON SUDANESE UNITY, IT IS EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION THAT THIS NOW MUCH LESS OF A CONCERN THAN IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BEFORE. GOS ATTITUDE NOW APPEARS TO BE PRACTICAL ONE OF HOW TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH CAN BEST BE ORGANIZED. IT IS, FOREXAMPLE, WORKING HARD ON ROAD THROUGH TORIT AND KAPPETA TO KENYA BORDER. THIS ROAD WILL PROVIDE STILL ANOTHER TIE TO NEIGHBORS TO SOUTH, BUT IS NEEDED BOTH TO OPEN UP THIS PORTION OF EQUATORIA AND AS SAFETY VALVE TO UNPREDICTABLE AMIN. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND GOS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF USING SOUTHERN ROUTE TO BRING IN SUPPLIES OTHER THAN RELIEF GOODS, E. G., PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. AGAIN, CONSIDERATION APPEARS BE BASED ON PRACTICAL NEED FIND WORKABLE SUPPLEMENT TO RIVER AND RAIL SUPPLY FROM NORTH.

6. PROBLEM OF BRIDGE BUILDING PRIORITIES POINTS UP NEED FOR GOS, IBRD AND DONOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONSULT TOGETHER TO ENSURE LIMITED EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE AND GOS RESOURCES ARE ALLOCATED TO PROJECTS OF HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PAYOFF. MERE FACT OF HAVING TO MEET WITH CONSULTATIVE OR OTHER COORDINATING GROUP WOULD ALSO SERVE AS INCENTIVE FOR GOS TO TRY IMPROVE ITS PLANNING MECHANISM. WE THUS HOPE IBRD PLANS
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FOR SOME SORT OF COORDINATING MECHANISM WILL MATERIALIZE IN

NEAR FUTURE.

7. COMMENTS ON REMAINDER REFTEL WILL FOLLOW.
FRITTS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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